THE ECLECTIC LIGHT COMPANY

MACS, PAINTING, AND MORE

Painting topics

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Articles about painting and visual art:

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Your favourite paintings and painters
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Next year in paintings: Ford Madox Brown, Antoine Watteau, Fernand Khnopff
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Notable recent articles:

In memoriam Francisco Pradilla Ortiz 1
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Homer's Odyssey in paintings: 1 Polyphemus and Circe – coming soon
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Painters with anniversaries in 2021

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In Memoriam William Blake Richmond, an Aesthetic
In Memoriam: George Dunlop Leslie, one of the St John's Wood Clique
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The Art of Anders Zorn – commemorating the centenary of his death

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Painters with anniversaries in 2020

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Paintings of 1919 – short survey of notable paintings from exactly a century ago

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The Wilton Diptych
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van Eycks' Ghent Altarpiece
Pierre Bonnard's Coffee and The Bowl of Milk
Lucas Cranach's Martyrdom of St Catherine
Claude Monet's Grainstacks series
JMW Turner's landscapes
John Singer Sargent 'Simplon Pass: The Tease'
Rembrandt's Bathsheba
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Vincent van Gogh's Wheat Field with Cypresses
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Dante's Divine Comedy

The Divine Comedy: Overview and list of articles
Introduction to Dante's Divine Comedy
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Gustave Courbet – celebrating the bicentenary of his birth

Bicentenary of Gustave Courbet, a founding father of modern art
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5: Waves and caves
6: Into exile

Commemorating the 500th anniversary of the death of Leonardo da Vinci

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8 Las Meninas

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Goethe's Faust

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9 The story of Gretchen by Ary Scheffer & James Tissot

Les Nabis – see also Pierre Bonnard below

The Dutch Nabi: Meijer de Haan
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Much more than the Nabi Sculptor: Georges Lacombe
Paul Ranson: the heart of the Nabis 1
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Related:
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1 – Turner's wobbly water, Crossing the Brook (1815), in which JMW Turner has puzzling discrepancies in his reflections
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Pigments + technique → style – how choice from available pigments, coupled with the way in which the pigment was applied to the ground, relates to painting styles

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2 – up to 1700, tracing the history of pigments and technique from Classical times, through the Renaissance, up to 1700
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History of landscape painting

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The oldest landscape paintings in the world?
Between Turner and the 20th century: Alfred William Hunt
A painter's journey by train the importance of railways to painters, and their depiction in paintings
Rubens in Retirement: The late landscapes
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Truth in (landscape) painting

1 – Reynolds and Constable
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Technical

Colour charts for artists' paints and crayons
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IR revolution: the FLIR One™ – a cheap way of getting high-quality infra-red images
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Marking Time: introducing the timeline
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Marking Time: making good timelines
Recommended art history reading
Achieving the right perspective: the early history of linear perspective in painting
Over the Rainbow: getting the colours right

Comment

Luc Tuymans, copyright, and artistic creation
Art for all – how copyright law should change
The Lily Crucifix, Godshill Parish Church, Isle of Wight; c 1450, wall painting

Open source Europe? The EU copyright report – proposed changes to copyright law in the EU
Monet's signature begs more questions – is this Grainstack painting really an authentic Monet?
Mark-making is not abstraction
With Complements – colour complements and harmony
Shipwrecked art history: Géricault's Raft of the Medusa
Copyright, common sense, and copying
Comic tech – technology and graphic novels, etc.
Getting copyright right
The suppression of great art
Sun struck – the importance of the sun, and JMW Turner
Should we be rehabilitating Sargent, or his critics?
Doing it in style: crafting your way past technology
History needs to be more complete, and better integrated
The Art Fund: a UK charity which can save you more than you give
How copyright disserves almost everyone
Making paintings popular again
Panama paintings: how the rich impoverish art
Palmyra, paintings, and cultural vandalism
What you see is what you've not got – extraordinary optical illusions
Someone is likely to be profiting from your public domain content
Industrial copyright abuse

Reviews

Movie: Mr. Turner (2014), Mike Leigh, starring Timothy Spall
Book: The Cambridge History of Painting in the Classical World, edited by JJ Pollitt
Book: Akademie X: Lessons in Art + Life
Movie: Rembrandt (2015), Exhibition on Screen, Kat Mansour and Phil Grabsky
Book: Ravilious, James Russell
Two Books: "Inventing Impressionism" and "Paul Durand-Ruel"; Saint or Sinner?
Book: The Work of Art, Anthea Callen – plein air landscape painting from inception to Impressionism
Book: Keeping an Eye Open, Julian Barnes, a collection of essays on 19th and 20th century art
Book: Poussin et Dieu (Poussin and God), Milovanovic and Szanto
Book: We Go to the Gallery, Miriam and Ezra Elia
Book: Lost in Translation, Ella Frances Sanders
Book: Georges Seurat The Art of Vision, Michelle Foa
Book: Samuel Palmer, William Vaughan – an extended review with ten paintings by Palmer,

Blake and Linnell
Paintings and Book: The body real – paintings by Ellen Altfest
Book: Gustave Caillebotte: The Painter's Eye, Morton and Shackelford
Book: Van Gogh and Nature, Kendall, van Heugten and Stolwijk
Book: Impressionism, Reimagining Art, Norbert Wolf
Book: The Book of Legendary Lands, Umberto Eco
Book: Picturing the Americas, Landscape Painting from Tierra del Fuego to the Arctic, Brownlee, Piccoli & Uhlyarik (eds)
Book: Frederic Church, The Art and Science of Detail, Jennifer Raab
Book: Delacroix and the Rise of Modern Art, Patrick Noon and Christopher Riopelle
Book: The Wilton Diptych, Gordon et al.
Book: Monet's Trees, Ralph Skea
Book: Eric Ravilious, Masterpieces of Art, Susie Hodge
Book: Christoffer Wilhelm Eckersberg, Kasper Monrad et al.
Book: Monet – Lost in Translation, Suzanne Greub (ed)
Triple Book: Richard Mabey and a cavalcade of plants
Book: Brushstroke and Emergence, James D Herbert
Book: Inspiring Impressionism, Daubigny, Monet, van Gogh, by Ambrosini et al.
Book: The Spirit of Indian Painting, B N Goswamy
A Summer of Bosch – books and exhibitions for his 500th
Book: Hieronymus Bosch, Painter and Draughtsman: Catalogue Raisonné, Ilsink and Koldeweij
Book: The Vincent Van Gogh Atlas, Denekamp and van Blerk
Book review and exhibition: Australia's Impressionists, ed. Riopelle

All my own work

Narrative in the landscape
Stag-head horse chestnut, Spring – the first plein air of the season
St Martin's Down, watercolour on paper, plein air

External links

Jackson's Art Supplies (also a fine blog) – the best and most comprehensive art materials supplier
Williamsburg Oils – the best
QoR Watercolours – the best
Making a Mark – Katherine Tyrrell's excellent blog for artists
Painter's Table – offers its own excellent content, and a wide range of links to items on other blogs
Painters on Paintings – many fascinating accounts of paintings which have most influenced individual painters

Painting Perceptions – about perceptual painting, a modern version of realism
MK Gallery, Milton Keynes, UK
WikiArt – the best and largest collection of images of paintings
PubHist – publications on Art History and many paintings
Art Renewal Centre (ARC) – another superb collection of images
Handprint watercolours – Bruce MacEvoy's vast and comprehensive resource of information on watercolours, notable for its tests of lightfastness and much more

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15 Comments Add yours

1

Matt M. on August 1, 2015 at 1:12 pm ★ Like

This is an amazing resource for someone such as myself who has just recently taken an interest in painting. Thanks for putting this together, I suspect I will be here reading through it all quite frequently.

One note: I've only had time for a quick glance, but no mention of Edward Seago?

2

hoakley on August 1, 2015 at 4:46 pm ★ Like

Thank you for your kind words.
I am afraid that for the moment, it is hard to cover Edward Seago. I love his paintings (so much so that I seem to have bought the book about them twice!), and they would be an appropriate continuation to coverage of Sargent and his contemporaries. However his work is still covered by copyright, so there do not appear to be any images of them in the public domain. This applies to many others artists too.
Sometimes I am able to obtain permission to use images which are still in copyright,

and greatly enjoy doing so. Unfortunately those that are most difficult are usually where the artist is dead, but their heirs now own the rights (as they will, in the UK, for the 70 years after the death of the creator). Many of the copyright holders that I have tried to obtain releases from do not even reply, and some seem untraceable. I am sure that Edward Seago would be only too happy to see his paintings here, of course.
Howard.

3

Meighan Maley on December 14, 2018 at 12:58 pm

★ Liked by 1 person

What an incredible resource! Your curiosity about and love of art is palpable. Thank you.

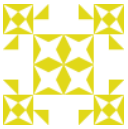
4

hoakley on December 14, 2018 at 1:19 pm

★ Like

Thank you for your kind words.
Howard.

5



Jonathan Tucker on April 16, 2019 at 4:24 pm

★ Liked by 1 person

This is a marvellous resource. It's so varied and wide-ranging. Something of a labour of love with posts every day. In case you run out of topics (!), perhaps you would you look sometime at the impact of Japanese painters (Foujita, Orguiss etc) working in Europe. Obviously much has been written about the Impressionists and other European artists 'discovering' Japanese prints, but little (so far as I can see) the other way round. What impact, if any, did Japanese painters working alongside their European counterparts have on their artistic tradition back home. Or, would this, like Seago, be ruled out by copyright law?

Well, whatever, your site offers a really interesting and informative read. So, thank you.

6

hoakley on April 16, 2019 at 5:25 pm

★ Like

Thank you for your kind words.
I have been fascinated by the interactions between Western and Eastern art, particularly those in Japan. Unfortunately there isn't a great deal of literature, and I don't recall seeing anything which considers the 'other way around' in that sense.
Yes, there is always the problem of works which are still in copyright. I have in

the past obtained approval to use some, but it's a laborious process and many of those who own copyright don't even bother to reply to requests.
But I will see what I can turn up, thank you.
Howard.

7

Keith on April 20, 2019 at 6:35 am

★ Liked by 1 person

Hello Howard,

Your knowledge of Art and Artists looks encyclopedic!

This might sound low-brow but I am interested in the works and evolution of comic artists.

I walked into a comic book shop and was stunned by a full-sized poster of a book they had in stock. I had never seen anything like it. It was astonishing in detail and shrouded in the magical mists of time.
I offered the store owner $50 for the poster, he wouldn't sell. I offered $100. Nope. My last offer was $200 dollars as I couldn't afford that, but I had to. The answer was, 'No'.

I did purchase a hard-bound and a soft-bound copy of the book. I left empty-handed for the poster. I've always wanted a print of it.

The poster was the announcement of "The Mabinogion" by Alan Lee. This was many years before he became involved in the production of The Lord of the Rings movies.

To this day I still reverently and in awe page through it and drink in all the details.

cheers!

Keith

8

hoakley on April 20, 2019 at 6:39 am

★ Like

Thank you for your kind words.
No, I don't think that comic book or BD art is any less worthy for its popularity. Indeed, I love a lot of it, and have quite a collection. My preference is for artists, mainly French, who work in more continuous tone rather than for process colour.
The tragedy with almost all such works is that they are still covered by copyright, which is good for the artists but prevents me from including any of

their work in articles here. Otherwise I'd love to be much more inclusive. Howard.

9

Pedroxypto on June 6, 2019 at 8:46 pm

★ Liked by 1 person

I've reached your web page because of Jules Breton, and found your comparasion Jules Breton x Millet very appropiate to better understand both painters approach & styles. Till now I've payed much more attention to Millet (because of Van Gogh after's and Musée d' Orsay Angelus & Gleaners) , and I also have seen at MET a fantastic Breton (The weeders) that now with your comments, I put on the correct perspective. Your analysis over Millet and Breton individually also was very well developed and helped to complete my Millet references and expanded a lot my light over Breton. I also appreacite that you use very well defined cronological order to expose the evolution of life and style of each painter. In a simple comment – Thank you very much for such a valuable and well structured reference on Art – I'm going to come to your page very frequently – for sure.

10

hoakley on June 6, 2019 at 9:54 pm

★ Like

Thank you for your kind words. I hope that you enjoy the articles here. Howard.

11

David B. on August 2, 2019 at 12:09 pm

★ Liked by 1 person

Hello Howard

I saw this recently – and thought of you!

craznar Share

Just a bit of fun! 🙂

David

12

hoakley on August 2, 2019 at 12:11 pm

★ Like

Thanks – I'd never associated them with pain before!
Howard

13

Corpely.com on August 21, 2019 at 10:24 am

★ Like

This week we are very excited to welcome Dr. Howard Oakley of The Eclectic Light Company blog. Howard describes himself as a Former MacUser writer, RN doctor, survival medicine specialist; now blogger and painter.

14

thoolb on September 3, 2020 at 12:10 pm

★ Liked by 1 person

Dear Howard, not that I would miss anything in your impressive, rich online museum – but just in case: This large museum of ancient paintings through 7 centuries decided to continue its online exhibition "daheim" ("at home") of a weekly changing painting. The project was initially started in spring 2020 because of the C19 lockdown:

About the museum:
https://www.wallraf.museum/en/the-museum/visitors-information/information/

The project "Walraff daheim"
https://www.wallraf.museum/en/exhibitions/now/wallrafdaheim/wallrafdaheim/
https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/wallrafdaheim

Hopefully the only German texts about the paintings won't reduce interest or enjoyment.

15

hoakley on September 3, 2020 at 5:36 pm

★ Like

Thank you – that's wonderful. I'll take a look and may post a short note this weekend.
Howard.

Comments are closed.

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